

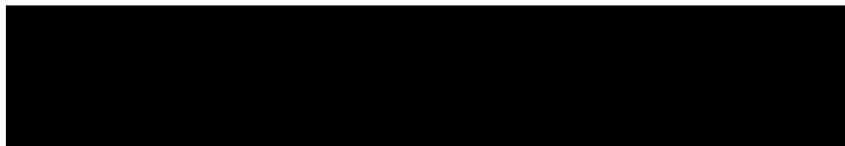
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**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)  
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090  
Washington, DC 20529-2090



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**



B5

Date: **FEB 03 2012**

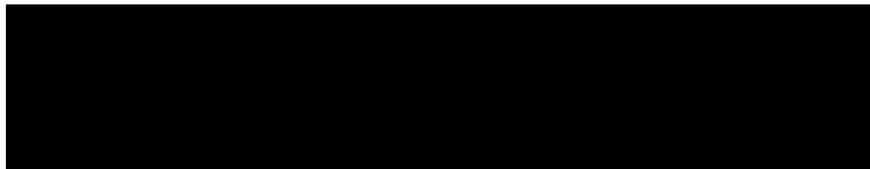
Office: **TEXAS SERVICE CENTER**

FILE: A black rectangular redaction box.

IN RE: Petitioner:  
Beneficiary: A black rectangular redaction box.

**PETITION:** Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as a Member of the Professions Holding an Advanced Degree or an Alien of Exceptional Ability Pursuant to Section 203(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(2)

**ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:**



**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All of the documents related to this matter have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Please be advised that any further inquiry that you might have concerning your case must be made to that office.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Rhew".

Perry Rhew  
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The preference visa petition was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The petitioner is a jewelry manufacturer. It seeks to employ the beneficiary permanently in the United States as a Division Vice President, Marketing. As required by statute, the petition is accompanied by an ETA Form 9089, Application for Permanent Employment Certification, approved by the United States Department of Labor (DOL). The director determined that the petitioner failed to demonstrate that the beneficiary satisfied the minimum level of education stated on the labor certification. The director denied the petition on April 21, 2009.

The AAO conducts appellate review on a de novo basis. *See Soltane v. DOJ*, 381 F.3d 143, 145 (3d Cir. 2004).

In pertinent part, section 203(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(2), provides immigrant classification to members of the professions holding advanced degrees or their equivalent and whose services are sought by an employer in the United States. An advanced degree is a United States academic or professional degree or a foreign equivalent degree above the baccalaureate level. 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(k)(2). The regulation further states: "A United States baccalaureate degree or a foreign equivalent degree followed by at least five years of progressive experience in the specialty shall be considered the equivalent of a master's degree. If a doctoral degree is customarily required by the specialty, the alien must have a United States doctorate or a foreign equivalent degree." *Id.*

To be eligible for approval, a beneficiary must have all the education, training, and experience specified on the labor certification as of the petition's priority date. *See Matter of Wing's Tea House*, 16 I&N 158 (Act. Reg. Comm. 1977). The priority date of the petition is July 27, 2007, which is the date the labor certification was accepted for processing by the DOL. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(d). The Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker (Form I-140) was filed on April 2, 2009.

Upon review of the entire record, the AAO concludes that the petitioner has established that it is more likely than not that the beneficiary had all the education, training, and experience specified on the ETA Form 9089 as of July 27, 2007. The beneficiary may be classified as an advanced degree professional as one having a baccalaureate degree or a foreign equivalent degree followed by at least five years of progressive experience in the specialty. The beneficiary's education and experience also match the terms of the labor certification. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(k). Accordingly, the petition is approved under section 203(b)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(2).

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The petitioner has met that burden.

**ORDER:** The appeal is sustained.